

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1236

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in recognizing those organizations that are pillars in their communities, providing vital services that benefit the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is the Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service (SCHAS), which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, the federal government conducted a survey to measure the quality of life for the elderly and disabled and determined that there was a need for in-home care to allow those individuals to remain in their homes and postpone or eliminate the need for more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these findings, the Greater Knoxville Senior Citizens Aide Service was established in 1970 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, with funding from civic organizations, churches, individuals, and federal and local government grants; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service, as it was later renamed, served 271 seniors in its first six months in operation, with twenty-eight aides working 13,132 hours and traveling 18,070 miles; and

WHEREAS, SCHAS added service to patients in Blount, Hamblen, Jefferson, Sevier, Cocke, Monroe, and Union counties in the 1980s and offered a number of projects that were funded by community grants, including the pet placement program, the renew respite care program, the bridge program, and the Generation 2 Generation program, which paired seniors with young volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the 1990s saw the addition of Claiborne and Grainger counties to the service area and the establishment of the live-in caregiver program and the Minority Applicant Pool System, which assists individuals and family members as they cope with the trauma of deteriorating health and assists minority elders, when appropriate, to enter a higher level of care facility; and

WHEREAS, SCHAS purchased land from Broadway Baptist Church in 1998 for the purpose of constructing the Renaissance Terrace Assisted Living Center, and capital fundraising began the following year. Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale made the first pledge in the amount of \$3 million as a challenge grant, and Governor Phil Bredesen pledged \$3 million from the State of Tennessee, with additional donations from private companies, individuals, and foundations; and

WHEREAS, the organization broke ground for Renaissance Terrace in 2006, and construction was completed two years later, with the first resident moving into the facility in January 2009. Renaissance Terrace includes forty-eight units of affordable assisted living as well as a dining room, activities room, office space for SCHAS corporate headquarters, a board room, and a training room for caregivers; and

WHEREAS, in the 2000s, Loudon, Anderson, Campbell, Roane, McMinn, Scott, and Morgan counties were added to its service area, and a passenger coach was purchased for Renaissance Terrace residents after two years of fundraising; in 2017, SCHAS opened Cedar Point Living, an affordable housing facility in Tazewell; and

WHEREAS, SCHAS now offers tier training for caregivers in the areas of dementia awareness, chronic disease, cultural competency, and mental health awareness; these trainings provide caregivers with the opportunity to improve the care they provide to clients as well as increase their job skills; and

WHEREAS, today, SCHAS has an annual budget of \$7.5 million and employs 197 caregivers, who provide an average of 20,000 hours of care each month in eighteen counties throughout East Tennessee, as well as thirty-five employees at Renaissance Terrace Assisted

Living Center and thirty employees who manage the business operations of the nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, SCHAS has played an invaluable role in the lives of senior adults and people with disabilities throughout East Tennessee, promoting respect and dignity for their clients, and it is appropriate that we recognize this stalwart organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary and extend our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.